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Agenda item 118

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part IV)

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/53/464 and Add.1 and 2.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 44th meeting, on 15 December 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/53/SR.44).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.21

3. At the 44th meeting, on 15 December 1998, the representative of Ireland and coordinator of informal consultations on this item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/53/L.21), which was submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 6).

5. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Mexico, Australia, Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Japan, China, Egypt, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations), Singapore and Uruguay (see A/C.5/53/SR.44).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997,

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to bear the expenses of the United Nations, as apportioned by the General Assembly, in conformity with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the fundamental principle that the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned among Member States broadly according to their capacity to pay, as specified in rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[1]

1. *Urges* all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without imposing conditions, to avoid the financial difficulties being experienced by the Organization;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Contributions to continue its consideration of the elements of the methodology for the scale of assessments for the regular budget at its fifty-ninth session and to make a consolidated set of recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[1]

Recalling its resolution 52/215 B of 22 December 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 160 of its rules of procedure;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Contributions to continue its consideration of the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions at its fifty-ninth session to consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the possibilities for tightening the application of Article 19;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to review the procedural aspects of the consideration of requests for exemption under Article 19, in particular modalities for dealing

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/53/11).

with such requests received when the Committee is not in session, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly in this respect before the end of its fifty-third session;

5. *Further requests* the Committee to consider further and to make recommendations, as appropriate, on the issues raised in paragraph 28 of its report, including measures to encourage the timely, full and unconditional payment of assessed contributions, pursuant to its general mandate under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 14 A (I) of 13 February 1946.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/36 of 30 November 1998 and its decisions 53/406 A and B of 7 October 1998,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to apply equal and non-discriminatory treatment when considering requests from Member States for exemption under Article 19.

D

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[1]

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions on the assessment of non-member States, contained in paragraph 102 of its report;

2. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions to consider further the view set out in paragraph 99 of its report, taking into account the actual participation as well as the benefits enjoyed by non-member States in United Nations activities.